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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,706	02/25/2002	Tsung-Wei Lin	0941-0417P-SP	8346

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BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

CASCHERA, ANTONIO A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2676

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2003

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,706

Applicant(s)

LIN ET AL.

Examiner

Antonio A Caschera

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in the pending application.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 4 and 9 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a. The phrase, "...the letter is divided into two parts..." should read, "...a letter is divided into two parts..." as the office believes such a modification would better describe the division of any of the plurality of letters within the string content (see lines 1-2 of claims 4 and 9).
 - b. The phrase, "...the letter when the cutting points cutting across an interior of the letter," should read, "...the letter with the cutting points cutting across an interior of the letter," (see last 2 lines of claims 4 and 9).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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3. Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Word 2000, Microsoft Office 2000. © 1985-1999.

In reference to claims 1 and 6, Microsoft Word 2000 discloses inserting a graphic manipulation of user defined text into a document, the manipulated user defined text called, "WordArt" (see example screenshots (1) and (2) of Microsoft Word 2000). Microsoft Word 2000 discloses the ability to take a string of text, inputted by the user, and create deformed or distorted versions of that string of text (see example screenshots (2), (3) and (10), (2) and (10) show the different deformations available and (3) shows an text box for inputting a user defined string of text to manipulate). Note, the office interprets the final text representation resulting from a deformation (see screenshot (6)) substantially similar to the applicant's, "trimmed ribbon image." Microsoft Word 2000 also discloses generating a deformation path to follow and create the deformed text string (see screenshots (4) and (5), (4) shows the "normal" representation of the text string with deformation path represented by the dotted lines and (5) shows the same text string after deformation and path representing the deformation). Note, the office interprets the ribbon route substantially similar to the deformation path (dotted line path of screenshots (4) and (5)). Further, the office interprets the deformation of screenshot (5) substantially similar to the, "wrap function" of claims 1 and 6, as the office believes some sort of equation to define the circular deformation shown in screenshot (5). Microsoft Word 2000 discloses the deformation path made up of many small line segments (see dotted line path of screenshots (4) and (5)) which the office interprets as substantially similar to the plurality of, "sub-paths" and "cutting points" being substantially similar to the start and end points of these small segments. Although Microsoft Word 2000 discloses creating segments based on the applied effect function (see

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screenshot (8) which shows 4 segments created based upon the shading effect), Microsoft Word 2000 does not explicitly disclose generating a plurality of segments by separatively applying an effect function to the sub-paths and the content attached to the sub-paths however, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to generate each segment of the deformation path of Microsoft Word 2000 separately and then combine the segments to create the final deformation path. Applicant has not disclosed that separatively applying an effect function to the sub-paths provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the segment creation of Microsoft Word 2000 because the matter of applying a certain range, for example a certain range of colors in a gradient fill, to one area and another range to a second area using multiple steps, versus applying the total range of colors over all areas using a single step, is a matter of design choice as preferred by the designer and/or to which best suits the application at hand, as seen by the office. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art to modify Microsoft Word 2000 to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1 and 6. Further, the separate application of effects to each area may require more steps which could necessitate more processing time and resources. Note, in reference to claim 6, although Microsoft Word 2000 does not explicitly disclose a computer readable medium for storing a program to execute the above text deformation steps, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to store the text deformation program of Microsoft Word 2000 on a computer readable medium in order to execute the program multiple times over again. Further, it is well known in the art that Microsoft Word 2000 is a computer program, made to be stored on

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some sort of computer readable medium in order to be executed and process program data
(Official Notice).

In reference to claims 2 and 7, Microsoft Word 2000 discloses all of the claim limitations as applied to claims 1 and 6 respectively above in addition, the office interprets slope values of tangent lines pass through cutting points local maximum and minimum values (see screenshot (7), two lines are formed both tangent to the deformation path passing through cutting points, one having a zero slope and the other with an almost undefined slope).

In reference to claims 3 and 8, Microsoft Word 2000 discloses all of the claim limitations as applied to claims 1 and 6 respectively above. Microsoft Word 2000 discloses the input content as a string with a plurality of letters (see screenshots (3) and (4)).

In reference to claims 5 and 10, Microsoft Word 2000 discloses all of the claim limitations as applied to claims 1 and 6 respectively above in addition, Microsoft Word 2000 discloses an effect function as shading which is shown in screenshot (9) whereby fill effects can be selected to apply to the deformed text string.

4. Claims 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Word 2000, Microsoft Office 2000. © 1985-1999 in view of Cheng (U.S. Patent 6,501,475 B1).

In reference to claims 4 and 9, Microsoft Word 2000 discloses all of the claim limitations as applied to claims 3 and 8 respectively above. Microsoft Word 2000 does not explicitly disclose dividing a letter into two parts by generating two trajectories of a contour of the letter with the cutting points cutting across an interior of the letter however Cheng does. Cheng discloses a system, method and computer readable medium for generating glyph-based outline fonts (see lines 1-2 of abstract). Chen discloses these glyphs to represent characters (see column

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1, lines 66-67). Chen discloses one aspect of the invention whereby glyphs are defined by dividing them into one or more single run-length regions (see column 2, lines 25-28). Chen also discloses these run-length regions as solid areas where filling the character is necessary (see column 9, lines 32-35). Chen further discloses defining these areas by identifying curve segments representing the outline of the glyph (see column 9, lines 50-60). Note, in reference to Figure 8 of Chen, the office interprets the lines separating run-length regions (the thicker lines going across the entire letter, i.e. line between #203b and 198b), substantially similar to, "...cutting across an interior of the letter," of applicant's claims. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the text deformation techniques of Microsoft Word 2000 with the glyph dividing techniques of Cheng in order to create a simpler method of filling within the contour of a character (see column 9, lines 35-37 of Cheng).

References Cited

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- a. Courter et al., "Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000, Professional Edition." Sybex Inc. ©1999. pages 154-156.
 - Courter et al. discloses a manual for Microsoft® Office 2000 including instructions on how to use, "WordArt."
- b. Hawkins (U.S. Patent 4,675,830)

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- Hawkins discloses a method for producing contour data capable of providing grid aligned contours of characters.
- c. Ito (U.S. Patent 5,309,554)
- Ito discloses an apparatus for converting original outline data representative of an outline of a character into dot data, calculating maximal or minimal points of character segments
- d. Hosoya et al. (U.S. Patent 5,852,447)
- Hosoya et al. discloses a character transforming system, transforming characters according to a contour line of a figure of a transformation pattern.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Antonio Caschera whose telephone number is (703) 305-1391. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays between 7:00 AM and 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached at (703)-308-6829.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

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(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone
number is (703) 306-0377.

aac

11/7/03



MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600